

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

In re:

Fairfield Sentry Limited, et al.,

Debtors in Foreign Proceedings.

Fairfield Sentry Limited (In Liquidation),

Plaintiff

-against-

Theodoor GGC Amsterdam, et al.

Defendants.

This Memorandum of Law is related to the
Following Adversary Proceeding:

10-03635

Chapter 15 Case

Case No. 10-13164 (CGM)

Jointly Administered

Adv. Pro. No. 10-03496 (CGM)

Administratively Consolidated

**BANK VONTOBEL AG'S MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF ITS MOTION
TO DISMISS FOR LACK OF PERSONAL JURISDICTION**

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Defendant Bank Vontobel AG (successor to Finter Bank Zurich) (“Vontobel” or “Defendant”), by its undersigned counsel, respectfully submits this memorandum of law in support of its motion to dismiss, with prejudice, the Fifth Amended Complaints (“FACs”) of the Liquidators of Fairfield Sentry Limited and Fairfield Sigma Limited in *Fairfield Sentry Ltd. (In Liquidation)*, et al. v. ABN AMRO Schweiz AG, et al., Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y.), and the Liquidators of Fairfield Sentry Limited, Fairfield Sigma Limited, and Fairfield Lambda Limited¹ in *Fairfield Sentry Ltd. (In Liquidation)*, et al. v. ABN AMRO Schweiz AG, et al., Adv. Pro. No. 10-03636 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y.), (collectively, the “Citco Brokerage Proceedings” and “Citco Brokerage Complaints”) under Rule 12(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for lack of personal jurisdiction.² Although the allegations in the Citco Brokerage Complaints are substantively the same, as explained further below, this memorandum supports the motion to dismiss the FAC in Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635.

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

The grounds requiring dismissal here are particular to Vontobel and the other defendants in the Citco Brokerage Proceedings (together with Vontobel, “Citco’s Brokerage Customers”) because there are no plausible allegations whatsoever that a single redemption payment to a

¹ Fairfield Sentry Limited (“Sentry”), Fairfield Sigma Limited (“Sigma”), and Fairfield Lambda Limited (“Lambda”) are referred to collectively as the “Funds.” As alleged by the Liquidators, Sentry maintained accounts with Bernard L. Madoff Securities LLC whereas Sigma and Lambda were indirect BLMIS feeder funds established for foreign currency investment through the purchase of shares of Sentry. Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 125. Despite this distinction, the Liquidators refer to Sentry, Sigma, and Lambda as the “Funds” throughout the Citco Brokerage Complaints and only occasionally acknowledge that Sigma and Lambda were indirect feeder funds for Bernard L. Madoff Securities LLC.

² The filing of this Motion is without prejudice to any objections and defenses to discovery, including those based on the Court’s lack of personal jurisdiction over the Defendant, all of which objections and defenses are expressly reserved and preserved, and any responses to discovery requests made by Defendant shall not be construed as a waiver of any such objections and defenses.

single defendant was made to U.S. accounts or went through U.S. correspondent accounts. The Liquidators have not alleged, let alone established, personal jurisdiction over Vontobel or any of the other defendants. Indeed, the only allegations in the Citco Brokerage Complaints unique to the individual Citco's Brokerage Customers are the allegations alleging their places of incorporation and registered addresses. *See* Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶¶ 33-104. Thus, Vontobel is mentioned by name in just two paragraphs in the Liquidators' allegations, and one of those paragraphs establishes that it resides outside the United States. *See* Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶¶ 15, 69. ***All other allegations*** against Citco's Brokerage Customers, including Vontobel, are made by way of group pleading and none of those allegations tie Citco's Brokerage Customers or their alleged conduct to the United States.³

This Court already dismissed all but one of the claims asserted against Vontobel for failure to state a claim. *See In re Fairfield Sentry Ltd.*, 2018 WL 3756343, at *12 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Aug. 6, 2018) ("*Fairfield I*"); *In re Fairfield Sentry Ltd.*, 596 B.R. 275, 316 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2018) ("*Fairfield II*"); *In re Fairfield Sentry Ltd.*, 2020 WL 7345988 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Dec. 14, 2020) ("*Fairfield III*"). And the sole remaining claim against Vontobel—for the imposition of a "constructive trust" under British Virgin Islands ("BVI") law on redemption payments allegedly paid to Vontobel, *see* Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 198—must be dismissed for lack of personal jurisdiction.

To proceed on their remaining claim, the Liquidators first must establish this Court's personal jurisdiction over each defendant with respect to each redemption payment that the Liquidators seek to reverse. *See Picard v. BNP Paribas S.A.*, 594 B.R. 167, 190 (Bankr.

³ The other Citco's Brokerage Customers will be filing separate and independent motions to dismiss asserting essentially the same basis for dismissal for lack of personal jurisdiction based on nearly identical allegations as those made against Vontobel.

S.D.N.Y. 2018) (Bernstein, J.). But the Citco Brokerage Complaints are devoid of any allegations that would support an exercise of jurisdiction with respect to any redemption. In certain other cases before this Court, the Liquidators have argued that defendants are subject to jurisdiction because redemptions at issue were paid to U.S. correspondent accounts. While that is wrong for reasons explained in other defendants' briefs, the Court need not even consider this argument in the Citco Brokerage Proceedings because the Liquidators' own allegations demonstrate that all defendants in the Citco Brokerage Complaints, including Vontobel, received all redemption payments in accounts *outside the United States*. Indeed, the Liquidators specifically and separately allege that every single redemption payment at issue in the Citco Brokerage Complaints was paid to an account in the Netherlands, not the United States.⁴

The Liquidators in fact recently represented to the District Court that “every relevant component of the [redemption] transactions at issue here occurred *outside the territorial jurisdiction of the United States*.” *Fairfield Sentry Limited (In Liquidation) v. Citibank NA London*, No. 19-cv-03911-VSB, [Dkt. No. 440](#) at 24 (S.D.N.Y. July 21, 2021) (“Liquidators’ Appeal”) (Emphasis added).⁵ And even if the receipt of redemption payments in U.S. accounts were sufficient to subject a party to this Court’s jurisdiction—and it is not—that is not what the Liquidators have pled as to Vontobel (and the other Citco’s Brokerage Customers). For this reason alone, Vontobel should be dismissed for lack of personal jurisdiction under New York’s long-arm statute.

⁴ The Liquidators include charts in the Citco Brokerage Complaints that provide information on every redemption at issue. Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC at Exs. A, B. Those charts include a column entitled “Bank Account to which Redemption Payment Was Made,” which is filled out in the same way for every redemption: “Citco Global Custody (NA) NV, Netherlands.” *Id.* (emphasis added).

⁵ Certain citations, including to filings in related proceedings, are hyperlinked for the Court’s convenience.

Additionally, because the Liquidators fail to allege that Vontobel (and the other Citco's Brokerage Customers) had *any contacts* with the United States, the exercise of jurisdiction over Vontobel would violate due process. The Court should dismiss the Liquidators' sole remaining claim against Vontobel on this basis too.

II. BACKGROUND

A. The Liquidators' Proceedings.

These cases are ancillary to the foreign liquidation of the Funds in the BVI. Between October 2009 and March 2010, the Liquidators commenced actions in the BVI against several of the Funds' alleged investors seeking restitution, on the theory that the Funds mistakenly made redemption payments prior to and at the time of BLMIS's collapse.⁶ Since then, these Liquidators have brought more than 300 actions in the United States against partially overlapping defendants with overlapping theories of liability. The New York actions were stayed pending resolution of the BVI actions. In 2014, the Privy Council, which is the court of last resort for appeals from the BVI, affirmed dismissal of the Liquidators' BVI law claims for restitution based on mistake. Starting in 2016, the Liquidators discontinued all remaining BVI actions,⁷ and began prosecuting the New York actions under a new theory that the payment of the redemptions was not merely mistaken, but the result of bad faith by the Funds' administrator, Citco Fund Services.

⁶ See Declaration of William Hare in Support of Motion for Leave to Amend, ¶ 15 (Adv. Pro No. 10-03635 [Dkt. 145](#)) (the "Hare Decl.").

⁷ See Hare Decl. ¶ 68. In the BVI courts, the Liquidators unsuccessfully litigated on a "mistaken" payment theory, premised on the Fund's alleged miscalculation of their NAV. The Liquidators lost those claims at all levels of the BVI court system. See *Fairfield Sentry Ltd. (In Liquidation) v. Migani*, [2014] UKPC 9 (April 19, 2014) ("*Migani*") at ¶ 23 (concluding the Liquidators' approach is "an impossible construction"). They also lost on their claim that redeeming investors did not give good consideration for the redemptions. See generally *id.*

According to the Liquidators' own allegations, every relevant aspect of their constructive trust claim brought under BVI law is foreign:

- Vontobel (along with the other Citco's Brokerage Customers) is a foreign financial institution with its principal places of business and place of incorporation outside the United States. *See* Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 69. It is not alleged to conduct any business in the United States.
- The Funds are BVI hedge funds that are now in liquidation in their home jurisdiction of the BVI. *See* Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶¶ 26-28.
- As a pre-condition to investing in the Funds, Vontobel (and the other Citco's Brokerage Customers) was required to enter into Brokerage and Custody Agreements ("B&C Agreements") governed by the laws of the Netherlands with non-U.S. entities associated with Citco Group Limited ("Citco"). *See* Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 8.
- Pursuant to the B&C Agreements, Vontobel (and the other Citco's Brokerage Customers) is alleged to have received redemption payments in bank accounts in the Netherlands or other accounts outside the United States that were sent by the foreign Citco entities. *See* Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 106 and Exs. A, B.

This foreign claim was filed in this Court due to a mistake of law by the Liquidators. As this Court found, the Liquidators incorrectly construed the subscription agreements for the purchase of shares in the Funds as containing a New York forum selection clause for their claim against Citco's Brokerage Customers. This Court rejected that theory because the Liquidators' claim is solely based on redemptions and does not arise out of the subscription agreements. *Fairfield I*, 2018 WL 3756343, at *11 (adhering to the Privy Council's holding "that the Subscription Agreement was irrelevant to actions to recover the inflated redemption payments").⁸ The subscription agreements are also irrelevant, and cannot support jurisdiction, because Citco's Brokerage Customers did not enter into subscription agreements with the Funds. Rather, the Liquidators allege only that Citco's Brokerage Customers entered into B&C

⁸ This ruling is the subject of a pending appeal to the District Court.

Agreements with the Citco entities; the Citco entities, who are not parties to these actions, entered into subscription agreements with the Funds. *See* Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 16. The Liquidators are now grasping to justify maintaining these litigations against Vontobel in New York, a forum with no connection to the redemption transactions at issue.⁹

B. Allegations Regarding the Redemption Payments.

The BVI Liquidators seek to obtain a damages award of approximately \$1.76 billion in the aggregate from Citco’s Brokerage Customers for redemptions allegedly received (the “Redemption Payments”) outside the United States.¹⁰ The Liquidators do not specify the damages they are seeking from Vontobel or any other defendant in this action. Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶¶ 8, 17. The Liquidators allege that Citco’s Brokerage Customers, through non-U.S. Citco entities invested outside the United States in the Funds. Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 2.

In Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635, the Liquidators allege that between April 20, 2004, and November 19, 2008, Sentry and Sigma made Redemption Payments to accounts held in the name of CGC NA (an affiliate of Citco, defined by the Liquidators as the “Citco Record Subscriber”) aggregating \$51,929,665.41. FAC ¶ 8.

⁹ *See* Tr. July 27, 2016 Hr’g, at 11-14 (“THE COURT: It just sounds like you litigated these issues or you should litigate them in the BVI. I don’t understand why they’re here. ... THE COURT: I understand that. But at some point you commenced these cases here And the question is why you didn’t commence them in BVI?”).

¹⁰ For purposes of this motion only, Vontobel takes all of the factual allegations—but not legal or boilerplate conclusions couched as factual allegations—in the Citco Complaints as true. *See Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). Vontobel reserves all rights to contest any such factual allegations that are false or inaccurate at the appropriate procedural stage of this proceeding.

¹¹ According to the Liquidators’ allegations in a related action in this Court, the Citco Record Subscriber and Citco Record Subscribers were foreign entities organized under the laws of either Curaçao or The Netherlands, and registered holders of shares in the Funds, which they purchased by entering into Subscription Agreements with the Funds. *See Fairfield Sentry Limited (In*

The Liquidators further allege that the Citco Subscribers¹² have either retained the Redemption Payments for their own accounts or paid all or some to the accounts of Citco's Brokerage Customers. Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶¶ 15, 33-104.

C. Allegations Regarding the Citco Platform.

The Liquidators allege that to invest in the Funds, each of the Citco's Brokerage Customers, including Vontobel, entered into a B&C Agreement with a Citco Record Subscriber and a Citco Bank.¹³ Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 8. *See also* Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 106 ("each of the Defendants entered into the B&C Agreements with a Citco Bank and the Citco Record Subscriber.").¹⁴

Significantly, the Liquidators affirmatively and explicitly allege that to receive Redemption Payments, Citco's Brokerage Customers were *required* to maintain bank accounts with the Citco Banks outside of the United States, into which all Redemption Payments were deposited:

Liquidation) et al. v. Citco Global Custody N.V. et al., Adv. Pro. No. 19-01122-CGM, [Dkt. No. 19](#) ¶¶ 32-34, at 5 n.1 (Nov. 26, 2019) ("*Citco Global Custody Compl.*").

¹² The Liquidators collectively refer to the Citco Record Subscriber, the Citco Record Subscribers, and the Citco Banks, defined herein, as the "Citco Subscribers." *See* Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 8. This memorandum hereinafter refers to both Citco Record Subscriber and Citco Record Subscribers, as those terms are defined by the Liquidators, as "Citco Record Subscribers" for ease of reference.

¹³ The Liquidators collectively refer to Citco Bank Nederland N.V., Citco Bank Nederland N.V. Dublin Branch, and the Citco Banking Corporation N.V. as the "Citco Banks."

¹⁴ The Liquidators filed examples of the B&C Agreements in 2017 as exhibits to the Declaration of David J. Molton in Further Support of Motion for Leave to Amend and in Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss. Adv. Pro. No. 10-03496, [Dkt. No. 1337](#) ("Molton Decl."). In one example, the beneficial owner entered into the B&C Agreement with Citco Banking Corporation N.V. in the Netherlands, as "the Bank," and Citco Global Custody (N.A.) N.V., as "the Custodian." *See* Molton Decl. Ex. G. In another example, the beneficial owner entered into the B&C Agreement with Citco Bank Nederland N.V. Dublin Branch ("Citco Bank Dublin"), as "the Bank," and Citco Global Custody N.V. as "the Custodian." *See* Molton Decl. Ex. H.

It was under the B&C Agreements that the Citco Subscribers purchased shares in and made redemptions from the Funds for the benefit of Defendants, which are the subject of this action. Under the B&C Agreements, the ***Defendants were required to maintain bank accounts at the Citco Banks from which and into which ‘all moneys received from or for the account of’ the Defendants were deposited*** (the “B&C Accounts”).

Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 106 (emphasis added). The Liquidators do not (because they cannot) allege that the Citco Banks were located in the United States.¹⁵ Indeed, in a related proceeding in this Court, the Liquidators have alleged that the Citco Banks were located in the Netherlands, Ireland, or Curacao. *See Citco Global Custody* Compl. ¶¶ 35-37, 39. Furthermore, the Liquidators allege that, pursuant to the B&C Agreements, the Citco Banks had the sole authority to effect brokerage transactions on behalf of Citco’s Brokerage Customers and deposit Redemption Payments in their non-U.S. accounts at the Citco Banks.¹⁶ Thus, the FACs themselves allege that all the Redemption Payments at issue in the Citco Brokerage Proceedings were made by the offshore Citco Banks to offshore accounts and that none was made to or through U.S. banks.

¹⁵ Pursuant to the example B&C Agreement filed by the Liquidators, for instance, at least some of Citco’s Brokerage Customers opened and maintained accounts with Citco Bank Dublin to receive the Redemption Payments. *See* Molton Decl. Ex. H.

¹⁶ Pursuant to the Liquidators’ own allegations, “the Citco Banks were solely responsible for providing brokerage services to the Defendants. According to the B&C Agreements, these services included ... ‘effecting [] transactions of and/or relating to the purchase and sale of and dealing in Securities in the name and for the account of the Defendants’”. Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 108. Additionally, the “B&C Agreements with the Defendants applied to all subscriptions and redemptions of Shares in the Funds by the Citco Subscribers on behalf of the Defendants, and all Redemption Payments were, upon information and belief, sent by the Citco Banks (upon their receipt from the Funds) to the Defendants’ B&C Accounts.” Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 115. Further, the “B&C Agreements afforded the Citco Banks and the Citco Record Subscribers the power to ... ‘deposit in the [B&C] Account [at the Citco Banks] all moneys received from or for the account of the [Defendants]’”. Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 118.

The Liquidators specifically allege that each Redemption Payment was made to an account with “Citco Global Custody (NA) NV, Netherlands.” Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC at Exs. A (Redemption Payments received by Citco’s Brokerage Customers from Sentry) and B (Redemption Payments from Sigma).¹⁷ They do this in charts that list every single Redemption Payment at issue, which identify the date of the Redemption Payment, the amount paid, the number of shares redeemed, and the identity and location of the bank account to which each such payment was made. *Id.* Here is a sample of entries from these charts, demonstrating the detail with which the Liquidators have alleged that each Redemption Payment was received at bank accounts outside of the United States:

<u>Payment Date</u>	<u>Redemption Payment</u>	<u>No. of Shares</u>	<u>Bank Account to which Redemption Payment Was Made</u>
April 21, 2004	\$325,094.34	334.37	Citco Global Custody (NA) NV, Netherlands
April 21, 2004	\$10,937,878.23	11249.96	Citco Global Custody (NA) NV, Netherlands
July 16, 2004	\$147,542.37	148.21	Citco Global Custody (NA) NV, Netherlands

Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC at Ex. A. The column on the far right, entitled “Bank Account to which Redemption Payment Was Made” contains the same information for every Redemption Payment at issue: “Citco Global Custody (NA) NV, *Netherlands*.” *Id.* (emphasis added). In the exhibits to both FACs, that column reads exactly the same for every Redemption Payment that

¹⁷ The Liquidators do not specify at which of the Citco Banks Vontobel (or any of the other Citco’s Brokerage Customers) received Redemption Payments. Nor do the Liquidators identify from which of the Funds Vontobel (or the other Citco’s Brokerage Customers) received Redemption Payments.

Citco's Brokerage Customers (as an undifferentiated group that includes Vontobel) allegedly received.

D. Specific Allegations About Vontobel.

The Liquidators fail to make any meaningful Vontobel-specific allegations. Indeed, Vontobel is mentioned by name only three times in this Citco Brokerage Complaint.

Specifically, here is a list of every allegation made by the Liquidators that mentions Vontobel:

1. "[U]pon information and belief," the Citco Subscribers "paid all or some portion of such Redemption Payments to or for the account of persons or entities, including, but not limited to," every defendant in the case, including "Vontobel";
2. "[S]ome or all of the Redemption Payments made to the Citco Subscribers may have been paid" to "Vontobel"; and
3. Vontobel "is a corporate entity organized under the laws of Switzerland."

Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶¶ 15, 69.

The Liquidators plainly make no allegations specifically about Vontobel that could possibly support an exercise of personal jurisdiction over it. As explained below, the allegations that the Liquidators make as to Citco's Brokerage Customers (*i.e.*, all defendants in these cases) as an undifferentiated group also fail to establish a basis for personal jurisdiction.

III. ARGUMENT

The Liquidators bear the burden of establishing that this Court has personal jurisdiction over Vontobel. *See DiStefano v. Carozzi N. Am., Inc.*, 286 F.3d 81, 84 (2d Cir. 2001). To meet this burden, under New York's long-arm statute, the Liquidators must satisfy two exacting pleading requirements: (1) Vontobel must have transacted business within the state; and (2) the claims asserted must arise from that business activity. *See Zim Integrated Shipping Servs. Ltd. v. Bellwether Design Techs. LLC*, 2020 WL 5503557, at *4 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 10, 2020) (Broderick, J.) (citing *Best Van Lines, Inc. v. Walker*, 490 F.3d 239, 246 (2d Cir. 2007)). The Liquidators

also must demonstrate that this Court’s exercise of personal jurisdiction over Vontobel “would comport with due process.” *Zim Integrated Shipping Servs. Ltd.*, 2020 WL 5503557, at *3 (internal quotations omitted).

As Judge Bernstein held in the Madoff Trustee litigation with respect to the identical jurisdictional issue, each transaction involving Redemption Payments is a separate claim. Accordingly, the Liquidators must establish the Court’s jurisdiction over Vontobel for ***each individual Redemption Payment***, just as the Trustee is required to do. *BNP Paribas*, 594 B.R. at 190 (“Each transfer is a separate claim, and the Trustee must establish the court’s jurisdiction with respect to each claim asserted.”) (internal quotations and citations omitted). They have failed to do so here. Rather, the Liquidators have meticulously alleged that every single Redemption Payment was paid to an offshore bank; each claim therefore is foreign to the United States.

The Liquidators appear to advance two primary bases for personal jurisdiction against Citco’s Brokerage Customers, but both fail.

First, despite having painstakingly explained the structure and details of how the Redemption Payments were paid to Citco’s Brokerage Customers via off-shore bank accounts, the Liquidators now insert into their Citco Brokerage Complaints the conclusory and contradictory statement that “some or all of the Redemption Payments were received at, upon information and belief, designated United States-based bank accounts” as purportedly directed by Citco’s Brokerage Customers. Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 133. This solitary, unsupported “information and belief” assertion (contained in a separate part of the Complaint from the other generic jurisdictional allegations) is directly contradicted by the specific

allegations in the Complaint. As explained below, this belated, self-serving, and conclusory allegation cannot support the assertion of jurisdiction.

Second, the Liquidators allege generally, in a broad-brush manner without mentioning Vontobel or any other individual defendant, that Citco’s Brokerage Customers “purposely availed themselves of laws of the United States and the State of New York” by investing in the Funds allegedly “knowing and intending that the Funds would invest substantially all of that money in New York-based BLMIS.” Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 20. This jurisdictional theory likewise fails, because it is not relevant to the Liquidators’ claim for constructive trust. That claim is wholly unrelated to the Funds’ investments in, or redemptions from BLMIS—and indeed, the Liquidators seek to recover Redemption Payments from Citco’s Brokerage Customers in these proceedings whether or not those payments were funded with redemptions from BLMIS. As the Liquidators concede, moreover, some of the payments were not funded with redemptions from BLMIS. The claim for constructive trust turns instead on (1) the Redemption Payments from the Funds that as the Liquidators have affirmatively alleged and argued, took place entirely overseas, and (2) the calculation of those payments by the Liquidators’ Dutch fund administrator, Citco Fund Services, that occurred in the Netherlands. This theory also fails because the Funds themselves, not Citco’s Brokerage Customers, placed the investment in BLMIS, and a defendant’s mere knowledge of a plaintiff’s forum contacts is insufficient, under the Supreme Court’s decision in *Walden v. Fiore*, to establish personal jurisdiction. 571 U.S. 277, 286 (2014).

A. The Redemption Accounts Do Not Establish Personal Jurisdiction.

1. The Liquidators Allege that the Redemption Process Did Not Occur in the United States.

As set forth *supra* at Section II.C., the Liquidators’ own allegations that the Redemption Payments were paid to accounts outside the United States defeat any assertion of personal jurisdiction over Vontobel based on the Redemption Payments. *See Neewra, Inc. v. Manakh Al Khaleej Gen. Trading & Contracting Co.*, 2004 WL 1620874, at *5 (S.D.N.Y. July 20, 2004) (holding non-U.S. bank did not engage in any jurisdictionally relevant activities in New York where the non-U.S. bank did not use its U.S. correspondent account to effect any transactions giving rise to plaintiff’s claims); *see also Homeschool Buyers Club, Inc. v. Brave Writer, LLC*, 2020 WL 1166053, at *5 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 11, 2020) (Broderick, J) (holding plaintiff failed to make a *prima facie* showing with respect to section 302(a)(1) because plaintiff did not allege “the existence of a single act directed at New York out of which these claims arise”).

The Liquidators’ unsupported allegation that “some or all of the Redemption Payments were received at, upon information and belief, designated United States-based bank accounts” as purportedly directed by Citco’s Brokerage Customers (Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 133) cannot create a U.S.-jurisdictional nexus for the Redemption Payments, particularly where it is directly contradicted by the Liquidators’ far more robust and specific allegations regarding the receipt of the Redemption Payments into Netherlands accounts.

First, the Liquidators do not allege any facts to support this single, self-serving, and unsubstantiated allegation. Conclusory allegations like this, based solely on “information and belief,” are inadequate as a matter of law. *See Pyskaty v. Wide World of Cars, LLC*, 856 F.3d 216, 226 (2d Cir. 2017) (holding allegations based “upon information and belief” were entirely speculative where the complaint contained no allegations of fact which, if true, would have

supported such allegations); *Arista Records, LLC v. Doe 3*, 604 F.3d 110, 120 (2d Cir. 2010) (explaining that a “conclusory allegation on information and belief” is insufficient to make a claim plausible where the complaint’s factual allegations do not raise a right to relief above the speculative level); *Rose v. Goldman, Sachs & Co.*, 163 F. Supp. 2d 238, 242 (S.D.N.Y. 2001) (finding that a complaint with no specific factual allegations to enable the court to evaluate information and belief assertions failed to state a claim).

Second, as demonstrated above, the detailed factual allegations in the Citco Brokerage Complaints flatly **contradict** the Liquidators’ isolated assertion that the Redemption Payments were supposedly paid to U.S. bank accounts. The Liquidators’ own allegations and the terms of the B&C Agreements state just the opposite: the Redemption Payments occurred, by design, entirely outside the United States. See *L-7 Designs, Inc. v. Old Navy, LLC*, 647 F.3d 419, 422 (2d Cir. 2011) (holding allegations that are “contradicted by more specific allegations or documentary evidence—from the Complaint and the exhibits attached thereto” need not be accepted); *Hirsch v. Arthur Andersen & Co.*, 72 F.3d 1085, 1092 (2d Cir. 1995) (“General, conclusory allegations need not be credited, however, when they are belied by more specific allegations of the complaint.”).

A comparison with other complaints makes clear that the Liquidators have not and cannot allege that the Redemption Payments were paid at bank accounts based in the United States. In those other complaints, the Liquidators allege specific facts that the Redemption Payments they seek to reverse were paid to accounts in the United States. For instance, in *Fairfield Sentry Limited (In Liquidation) et al. v. Banco Santander (Suisse) S.A.*, the Liquidators alleged that defendants “maintain[ed] bank accounts in the United States at Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas in New York, and in fact receiv[ed] Redemption Payments in those United States-

based and/or New York-based accounts.” Adv. Pro. No. 10-03509-CGM, [Dkt. No. 52](#) ¶ 19 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Aug. 2, 2019). The Liquidators further alleged that each Redemption Payment was made to “Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas” in “New York.” *Id.* at Ex. A. The Liquidators’ complaint against Banco Santander (Suisse) S.A. is not an outlier. The Liquidators made similar factual allegations in other complaints. *See* [Table 1](#), attached hereto.

Without more, such allegations, had they been made, are insufficient to establish jurisdiction. Here, however, the Liquidators made no similar allegations regarding the receipt of Redemption Payments in U.S. bank accounts. Instead, the Liquidators affirmatively pled that Redemption Payments were received by Citco’s Brokerage Customers exclusively in accounts that were located *outside the United States*.

Finally, the allegation that some of the Redemption Payments may have been received in U.S.-based accounts was not added until the Liquidators filed their proposed Fourth Amended Complaints in 2017, nearly a decade into these proceedings.¹⁸ The first four iterations of the complaints consistently failed, for obvious reasons, to allege that the Redemption Payments were paid to U.S. bank accounts.¹⁹

2. The Liquidators’ Admit that the Redemption Payments were Paid to Non-U.S. Accounts.

The Liquidators recently confirmed that the Redemption Payments were entirely outside of the United States in their opening appellate brief to the District Court challenging certain of Judge Bernstein’s holdings in *Fairfield I*, *Fairfield II*, and *Fairfield III*. The Liquidators

¹⁸ *See* Adv. Pro. No. 10-03496, [Dkt. No. 1337](#), Exs. E and F (proposed Fourth Amended Complaints, filed March 31, 2017).

¹⁹ *See* Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635, Dkt. Nos. 8 (Complaint, filed September 21, 2010), 67 (First Amended Complaint, filed January 10, 2011), 86 (Second Amended Complaint, filed May 3, 2011), and 121 (Third Amended Complaint, filed July 20, 2012).

affirmatively represented to the District Court that all Redemption Payments to Citco's Brokerage Customers (including Vontobel) occurred outside the United States:

The redemption transfers at issue here were purely foreign. The Citco Administrator (a foreign entity) managed the share register and processed the redemption requests abroad, and the Funds (also foreign entities) transferred redemption payments to Defendants (also chiefly foreign entities). *[E]very relevant component of the transactions at issue here occurred outside the territorial jurisdiction of the United States.*

Liquidators' Appeal at 24 (emphasis added). There can be no doubt that the Redemption Payments occurred completely outside the United States.

B. The Alleged Foreseeability of the Funds' Investment in BLMIS Does Not Establish Personal Jurisdiction Over Vontobel.

The Liquidators allege that Citco's Brokerage Customers "purposely availed themselves of the laws of the United States and the State of New York" by investing in the Funds allegedly "knowing and intending that the Funds would invest substantially all of that money in New York-based BLMIS." Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 20. But that allegation is jurisdictionally irrelevant for two reasons.

First, the non-party-specific allegation that Citco's Brokerage Customers allegedly knew that their investments in the Funds would be comingled with other investments and the net surplus of those investments would ultimately be invested in BLMIS does not give rise to this litigation and thus does not support jurisdiction. *See Helicopteros Nacionales de Colombia, S.A. v. Hall*, 466 U.S. 408, 417 (1984) ("[The] unilateral activity of another party or a third person is not an appropriate consideration when determining whether a defendant has sufficient contacts with a forum State to justify an assertion of jurisdiction."); *SPV Osus Ltd. v. UBS AG*, 882 F.3d 333, 344 (2d Cir. 2018) (substantial connection "depends on the relationship among the defendant, the forum, and the litigation"). The Liquidators' claim is not predicated on whether

the funds they seek to *recover* were ever placed with or controlled by BLMIS. Nor does the Liquidators' claim focus on the decision to *invest* with the Funds as the basis for either liability or jurisdiction. *See Fairfield I*, 2018 WL 3756343, at * 4-12 (finding subscription agreements irrelevant to claim because not based on subscription). The Liquidators' claim for constructive trust relates to and arises out of the calculation of the NAV by the Funds' Dutch administrator, Citco Fund Services, and the foreign Funds' subsequent alleged disbursement of the Redemption Payments abroad on the basis of those calculations from their Irish bank accounts to bank accounts in the Netherlands. *See* Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶¶ 137, 162, 196. The Citco Subscribers, on behalf of Citco's Brokerage Customers, made their requests for the Redemption Payments by tendering shares to Citco Fund Services in the Netherlands, *see Migani* ¶¶ 14-16; and, in turn, the Redemption Payments were funded from the Funds' bank accounts held at Citco Bank in Ireland, *see Fairfield III*, 2020 WL 7345988 at *7 (finding all transfers paid by Citco Bank). As the Liquidators themselves maintain, every element of the transaction is "purely foreign." Liquidators' Appeal at 24.

Second, knowledge that the Funds would invest some of their own money with BLMIS in New York is insufficient as a matter of law to support jurisdiction over Citco's Brokerage Customers. The Supreme Court has "consistently rejected attempts to satisfy the defendant-focused 'minimum contacts' inquiry by demonstrating contacts between the plaintiff (or third-parties) and the forum State." *Walden*, 571 U.S. at 284. In *Walden*, a Nevada-based plaintiff sued a Georgia police officer in Nevada court for an unlawful seizure of money in a Georgia airport. *Id.* at 288. The police officer knew that the plaintiff had connections to Nevada and that the seizure would delay return of plaintiff's property to Nevada, but the Supreme Court nonetheless held it unconstitutional to exercise personal jurisdiction over the police officer in

Nevada. *Id.* at 289. As the Supreme Court explained, the foreseeability of a plaintiff's connection to the forum is irrelevant to whether there is jurisdiction over the defendant because it "impermissibly allows a plaintiff's contacts with the defendant and forum to drive the jurisdictional analysis." *Id.* Instead, "[t]he substantial connection ... between the defendant and the forum State necessary for a finding of minimum contacts must come about by *an action of the defendant purposefully directed toward the forum State.*" *Asahi Metal Indus. Co., Ltd. v. Superior Court*, 480 U.S. 102, 112 (1987) (quotation omitted) (emphasis in original). Even if true, the Liquidators' allegation that Citco's Brokerage Customers knew that the Funds would invest with BLMIS does not satisfy *Walden*, and is insufficient to haul Vontobel into a New York court.

Moreover, the Liquidators' allegations establish that this factual scenario is not even true. Indeed, the Liquidators do not allege that Vontobel contracted or invested directly with BLMIS. Rather, the Liquidators allege that in order to invest in the Funds (*not* BLMIS), Vontobel (and the other Citco's Brokerage Customers) had to contract with the Citco Subscribers. *See* Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶¶ 8, 106. Furthermore, while some of the money invested in the Funds was transferred to BLMIS, and some of the Redemption Payments may have been funded by transfers from BLMIS, that was not universally or even typically the case. As the Liquidators allege, the Funds netted subscriptions against redemptions, and accordingly, often funded Redemption Payments with money that came from other subscriptions. Thus, that money was never placed with BLMIS in New York at all. *See* Adv. Pro. No. 10-03635 FAC ¶ 130 (alleging that subscription money was used to pay redemptions as a "shortcut"). The law does not support the Liquidators' expansive view that an investment company can sue its investors in any jurisdiction where that investment company itself decides to make investments.

C. The Exercise of Personal Jurisdiction over Vontobel Would Not Comport with Due Process.

The Court's exercise of jurisdiction must be reasonable under the circumstances for it to be consistent with due process. *World-Wide Volkswagen Corp. v. Woodson*, 444 U.S. 286, 297 (1980) ("The Due Process Clause ... gives a degree of predictability to the legal system that allows potential defendants to structure their primary conduct with some minimum assurances as to where that conduct will and will not render them liable to suit.") (citation omitted).

As demonstrated above, Citco's Brokerage Customers had no contacts whatsoever with the United States related to the Liquidators' remaining claim to impose a constructive trust on the Redemption Payments. Accordingly, the exercise of personal jurisdiction over Citco's Brokerage Customers, including Vontobel, would not comport with due process. *See Walden*, 571 U.S. at 286 ("Due Process requires that a defendant be haled into court in a forum state based on his own affiliation with the State, not based on the 'random, fortuitous, or attenuated' contacts he makes by interacting with other persons affiliated with the State.") (quoting *Burger King v. Rudzewicz*, 471 U.S. 462, 475 (1985)).

IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Liquidators' Citco Brokerage Proceedings should be dismissed with prejudice under Rule 12(b)(2) for failure to allege personal jurisdiction over Vontobel.

Dated: October 29, 2021
New York, New York

Respectfully submitted,

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Table 1

No.	Action	Allegations	
1	<i>Fairfield Sentry Ltd. (In Liquidation), et al. v. Theodoor GGC Amsterdam, et al.</i> , 10-ap-03496-CGM (Bankr. S.D.N.Y.)	“... and maintaining bank accounts in the United States at Citibank NA, and in fact receiving Redemption Payments in those United States-based and/or New York-based accounts.” Dkt. No. 1463-1 at ¶ 19.	Identifying “Citibank NA, New York” as the “Bank Account to Which Redemption Payment Was Made, Per Shareholder Direction.” <i>Id.</i> at Ex. A.
2	<i>Fairfield Sentry Ltd. (In Liquidation), et al. v. Banque Sudameris, et al.</i> , 10-ap-03749-CGM (Bankr. S.D.N.Y.)	“... maintaining bank accounts in the United States at Intesa BCI and Banca Intesa SpA, and in fact receiving Redemption Payments in those United States-based accounts.” Dkt. No. 16 at ¶ 20.	Identifying “Intesa BCI New York, New York” as the “Bank Account to Which Redemption Payment Was Made, Per Shareholder Direction.” <i>Id.</i> at Ex. A.
3	<i>Fairfield Sentry Ltd. (In Liquidation), et al. v. Banque Privee Edmond De Rothschild (Eur.), et al.</i> , 10-ap-03505-CGM (Bankr. S.D.N.Y.)	“... and maintaining bank accounts in the United States at Bank of new York and Wachovia Bank NA and in fact receiving Redemption Payments in those United States-based and/or New York-based accounts. Banque Privee and the Beneficial Shareholders selected U.S. dollars as the currency in which to invest and execute their transactions in Sentry, designated United States-based and/or New York-based bank accounts to receive their Redemption Payments from the Funds, and actively directed Redemption payments at issue in this action into those bank accounts.” Dkt. No. 82 at ¶ 19.	Identifying “Wachovia Bank NA, New York, NY” as the “Bank Account to Which Redemption Payment Was Made, Per Shareholder Direction.” <i>Id.</i> at Ex. A.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, hereby certify that on this 29th day of October 2021, a true and correct copy of the foregoing *Bank Vontobel AG's Memorandum of Law in Support of its Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Personal Jurisdiction* was served upon all counsel of record using the Court's CM/ECF system.

/s/ George W. Shuster, Jr.
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